
From: Digital@its.nc.gov [Digital@its.nc.gov]
on behalf of Office of Governor Roy Cooper [govrequests@nc.gov]
Sent: 9/14/2017 2:52:43 PM
To: contactgov [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Subject: Form submission from: Contact Governor Cooper

Submitted on Thursday, September 14, 2017 - 2:52 pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 10.10.25.4

Submitted values are:

First Name: Greg
Last Name: Yost
City: Mars Hill
State: NC
Email: gregorybyost@gmail.com
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Message:
Dear Governor Cooper,

I'm writing to encourage DEQ and your administration to deny the 401 water permit currently under consideration for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. But rather than enumerating specific issues that the pipeline company fails to adequately address in its permit application, I'd like to tell you why I believe that history will judge this decision to be the most important of your governorship.

I am in the midst (now day #10) of a 14 day water-only fast upon the steps of the DEQ office here in Raleigh. I'm a public high school teacher from Madison County. At the end of the 2016 school year, however, I left the job and the school that I love in order to devote myself to stopping the ACP. My reasoning: the ACP portends disaster for North Carolina in that it is the lynch pin of Duke Energy's plan for a wholesale transition to gas-sourced electricity. Duke wants to build 15 new gas plants by 2030 while only investing a pittance into our real future: safe, affordable, clean energy from wind and sun, with new battery storage and grid management technology as the final piece of the puzzle.

Please know that what you're reading is not the wistful longing of a fragile, environmentally-sensitive soul. I'm a climate realist. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that years of inaction have now brought us to the edge of climate disaster. Moreover, I'm aware of the recent work of scientists such as Cornell's Dr. Robert Howarth which demonstrate the outsized contribution of gas extraction and fugitive methane emissions to runaway climate change. That's why I quit my job (and halved my family's income in the process). My young students will not have time to recover from the mistakes that you and I will make today if we build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, thereby making a one time, generational investment in dirty, outmoded energy technology. Pipelines and gas plants, once built, will shackle us to this expensive and life threatening fuel for decades to come.

Governor Cooper, I believe this is a moment for your courageous leadership, yet I also believe that you will not be alone when your administration denies this permit. You probably understand even better than I how since 2010 North Carolinians have had their fill of cynical political calculation and are now starved for good government. Last March I helped organize a continuous 180 mile walk along the proposed route of the pipeline through the eight impacted counties (including Nash Co., your own home). The people in impacted communities in the East will join citizens across the entire state in recognizing a bold departure from business as usual in North Carolina when you reject the ACP. This state yearns for substantive political leadership. You have this opportunity to deliver it on an issue that will be remembered by future generations.

Governor, thank you for reading my letter. For our state, the health of its democracy, the integrity of its natural resources, the safety and well being of its citizens, and most importantly, the future of its young people, I urge your administration to deny the 401 water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Sincerely,

Greg Yost

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://governor.nc.gov/node/11/submission/21945>

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